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October 30, 2003

Michael K. Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Greater Boston Police Council, North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council and the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council, each of which is a regional public safety organization in Massachusetts, we are writing to you regarding an important issue that impacts this state and our country as a whole. The issue is public safety radio interference which is a problem in serious need of a solution.

Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The problem is that the technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless entities are mismatched with one another when they are located on channels close to each other. This results in hazardous and risky interference, which can cause distorted and jumbled communications and hinder or prevent public safety officials from doing their job.

This letter is to express our support for the Consensus Plan currently under consideration before the Federal Communications Commission that realigns the current cluttered licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. We believe this plan will virtually

eliminate public safety interference in this area, provide additional spectrum to public safety and offer a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities. We also support this proposal because its sponsors indicate they are prepared to implement the plan at no cost to public safety agencies in Massachusetts.

We have included below some background information on our respective organizations for your information:

**Greater Boston Police Council (GBPC)** was established in 1970 in an early attempt to coordinate the radio communications systems of the metropolitan Boston area police departments, with an overall goal of improving interdepartmental police services. The GBPC is a consortium of over 330 law enforcement and public safety agencies from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. The core membership of the organization is the 74 GBPC full-member departments spanning over 735 square miles of the Commonwealth's eastern seaboard - from Cape Ann in the north to the lower end of Massachusetts Bay and Hingham Harbor in the South and as far west as the Central Massachusetts community of Framingham.

The first mandate of the GBPC was the development of the radio system that has come to be known as the Boston Area Police Emergency Radio Network (BAPERN) and remains in use today. The BAPERN departments collectively represent a population of over 2 million people and employ over 10,000 full-time sworn police officers.

**North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC)**, incorporated as a non-profit in 1969, is a consortium of 40 police chiefs and represents law enforcement agencies from communities physically located in over 600 square miles in northeastern Massachusetts, spanning Essex and Middlesex Counties. NEMLEC departments collectively represent a population of over 1 million people and employ over 2,300 full-time sworn police officers. Operating under an interagency mutual aid and assistance (compact) agreement, NEMLEC has evolved over the years to address the ever-changing demands placed on the law enforcement profession by providing a system for the dissemination of information among law enforcement agencies and through mutual assistance and logistical support to meet the immediate requirements of an emergency or unusual situation. The NEMLEC departments have the capability of communicating across jurisdictions on a UHF repeater/voting receiver system.

Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council (Metro-LEC) was established as a non-profit organization in January 2002 for the purpose of providing a working collaboration between law enforcement agencies that are located in the southeast/west region of Massachusetts. The Metro-LEC presently consists of 38 municipal police departments spanning over 600 square miles from Bristol, Middlesex Counties, and the Norfolk and Plymouth County Sheriff's Offices. Metro-LEC departments collectively represent a population of over 730,000 people and employ nearly 1,800 full-time sworn police officers. While Metro-LEC itself does not currently utilize its own individual radio network, more than half of the members are also full-members of the GBPC. Further, nearly every member of the Metro-LEC utilizes the traditional model of UHF radio communication and thus has operational access to BAPERN.

Map of Membership Communities in Eastern Massachusetts

Greater Boston Police Council

Metropolitan-LEC &

North Eastern Mass LEC

Legend

- GBPC
- Metro- LEC
- NEMLEC



Your consideration and attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Leo A. Sacco, Jr.*

Leo A. Sacco, Jr. – Chief of Police Medford  
President, Greater Boston Police Council

*Brian J. Pattullo*

Brian J. Pattullo – Chief of Police Andover  
President, North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council

*Dennis R. Mannix*

Dennis R. Mannix – Chief of Police Natick  
President, Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council

Cc: Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Senator John F. Kerry  
Congressman Edward J. Markey